

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELIZE 00637 161937Z

63

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 SCEM-02 SCI-06 NEA-10 DRC-01 /182 W

----- 016017

R 161610Z NOV 73

FM AMCONSUL BELIZE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3233

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELIZE 637

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG BH

SUBJECT: PETROLEUM SITUATION IN BELIZE

1. MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, A. A. HUNTER, TOLD ME NOVEMBER 14 THAT BELIZE NOW HAS ENOUGH PETROLEUM ON HAND TO LAST THROUGH THE MIDDLE OF JANUARY, 1974. FURTHER, ESSO, WHICH SUPPLIES ALL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS IN BULK, HAS PROMISED ANOTHER SHIPMENT FOR DECEMBER 17 WHICH WILL INSURE SUPPLIES INTO MARCH, 1974. HOWEVER, PRICES WILL INCREASE. THE GOB ALLOWED ANOTHER INCREASE NOVEMBER 14 FOR GASOLINE, BRINGING THE PRICE OF "EXTRA" TO US 36 CENTS A US GALLON BEFORE ANY DUTIES OR TAXES. THIS IS A 73 PERCENT INCREASE SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR. THE GOB PLANS TO OFFSET THE INCREASE IN PRICE OF ALL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS BY RAISING THE PRICE OF GASOLINE FASTER THAN THAT OF KEROSENE AND DIESEL. THE POOR HERE USE KEROSENE FOR COOKING, AND ELECTRIC POWER IS GENERATED WITH DIESEL GENERATORS.

2. HUNTER ALSO SAID THAT GUYANA IS TRYING TO RAISE SUPPORT

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AMONG THE CARIBBEAN COMMON MARKET MEMBERS FOR AN ENERGY CONFER-

ENCE WHICH WOULD TAKE PLACE AT THE END OF THIS MONTH OR EARLY
DECEMBER. THE PURPOSE WOULD BE TO DEVISE SCHEMES TO KEEP
AVAILABLE ENERGY SOURCES, ESPECIALLY PETROLEUM, WITHIN THE
CARIBBEAN RATHER THAN RELEASING THEM FOR EXPORT. GUYANA, ACCORD-
ING TO HUNTER, FEARS THAT IT MAY NOT BE ABLE TO BUY ENOUGH
PETROLEUM TO KEEP ITS BAUXITE INDUSTRY RUNNING. THUS, THE CON-
FERENCE WOULD BE USED TO PRESSURE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO INTO
SUPPLYING CCM CUSTOMERS FIRST. DRISCOLL

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Message Attributes

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